Amendments to the Claims: This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A stent comprising:

a first section~~,~~;

a second section; ~~and~~

at least one securement member, the at least one securement member disposed about at least one region of the first section and at least one region of the second section, the at least one securement member having an uncrimped diameter and a crimped diameter, the crimped diameter being less than the uncrimped diameter, when the at least one securement member is in the crimped diameter at least a portion of an inner surface of the at least one securement member is fixedly engaged to the at least one region of the first section and the at least one region of the second section, in the crimped diameter ~~a longitudinal seam at least partially separating the at least one region of the first section and the at least one region of the second section~~, the at least one region of the first section and the at least one region of the second section being adjacent to ~~from~~ each other, wherein at least a portion of the at least one region of the first section and at least a portion of the at least one region of the second section comprise at least one weld positioned along the seam; and

at least one separate strengthening member comprising a first portion positioned between the at least one securement member and at least one of the first section and the second section, the strengthening member also comprising a second portion extending beyond an end of the at least one securement member.

2. (Original) The stent of claim 1 wherein at least one of the first section and second section is at least partially constructed of at least one wire.

3. (Original) The stent of claim 1 wherein at least one of the first section and second section is at least partially constructed of a plurality of struts, wherein adjacent struts define at least one cell opening.

4.-5. (Cancelled)

6. (Previously Presented) The stent of claim 1 wherein at least a portion of the at least one region of the first section and at least a portion of the at least one region of the second section are fused together along the seam.

7. (Previously Presented) The stent of claim 1 wherein the at least a portion of the at least one region of the first section and the at least a portion of the at least one region of the second section and the at least a portion of the inner surface of the at least one securement member comprise the at least one weld.

8. (Previously Presented) The stent of claim 1 wherein the at least one weld is positioned between the at least a portion of the inner surface of the at least one securement member and at least one portion of at least one of the at least one region of the first section and the at least one region of the second section.

9. (Previously Presented) The stent of claim 8 wherein the at least one weld is selected from the group consisting of: at least one seam weld, at least one spot weld and any combination thereof.

10. (Currently Amended) A stent comprising:

a first section;

a second section;

at least one securement member, the at least one securement member disposed about at least one region of the first section and at least one region of the second section, the at least one securement member having an uncrimped diameter and a crimped diameter, the crimped diameter being less than the uncrimped diameter, when the at least one securement member is in the crimped diameter at least a portion of an inner surface of the at least one securement member is fixedly engaged to the at least one region of the first section and the at least one region of the second section, in the crimped diameter the at least one region of the first section and the at least one region of the second section being immediately adjacent one another, the at least one securement member further comprising a longitudinal seam at least partially separating the at least one region of the first section and the at least one region of the second section from each other;

at least one separate strengthening member comprising a first portion positioned between the at least one securement member and at least one of the first section and the second section, the strengthening member also comprising a second portion extending beyond an end of the at least one securement member; and

at least one weld positioned along the seam, the at least one weld securing the at least one separate strengthening member to the at least one securement member.

11. (Original) The stent of claim 10 wherein the at least one weld is positioned between the at least a portion of the inner surface of the at least one securement member, the at least one portion of at least one of the at least one region of the first section and the at least one region of the second section, and the at least a portion of the at least one strengthening member.

12. (Canceled).

13. (Currently Amended) The stent of claim ~~12~~ 1 wherein at least one of the first portion and the second portion of the at least one strengthening member has a length of about 2 mm.

14. (Currently Amended) The stent of claim ~~12~~ 1 wherein the at least one strengthening member is a at least partially constructed of at least one metal selected from the group consisting of nitinol, stainless steel, platinum, gold and any combination thereof.

15. (Currently Amended) The stent of claim ~~12~~ 1 wherein the at least one strengthening member is at least partially radiopaque.

16. (Currently Amended) The stent of claim ~~12~~ 1 wherein the at least one strengthening member has a thickness, the thickness being about 0.01 inches to about 0.02 inches.

17. (Currently Amended) The stent of claim ~~12~~ 1 wherein the at least one strengthening member has a thickness, the thickness being about 0.015 inches.

18. (Previously Presented) The stent of claim 1 wherein at least one of the first section and second section is characterized by being from the group consisting of self-expandable, balloon expandable, and hybrid expandable.

19. (Original) The stent of claim 1 wherein the first section is a balloon expandable stent body and the second section is a self-expandable stent body.

20. (Original) The stent of claim 1 wherein at least one of the first section and second section is at least partially constructed of a shape memory material.

21. (Original) The stent of claim 1 wherein at least one of the first section and second section is at least partially constructed of nitinol.

22. (Original) The stent of claim 1 wherein the at least one securement member is at least partially constructed of the group consisting of: stainless steel, nickel, titanium, gold, platinum, and any combinations thereof.

23. (Original) The stent of claim 1 wherein the at least one securement member is at least partially constructed of nitinol.

24. (Original) The stent of claim 1 wherein the at least one securement member is at least partially radiopaque.

25. (Original) The stent of claim 1 wherein the at least one securement member has a thickness the thickness being about 0.001 inches to about 0.01 inches.

26. (Original) The stent of claim 1 wherein the at least one securement member has a thickness the thickness being about 0.003 to about 0.007 inches.

27. (Original) The stent of claim 1 further comprising a third section, the at least one securement member disposed about the at least one region of the first section, the at least one region of the second section, and at least one region of the third section, when the at least one securement member is in the crimped diameter the at least a portion of the inner surface of the at least one securement member is fixedly engaged to the at least one region of the first section, the at least one region of the second section and the at least one region of the third section.

28. (Original) The stent of claim 1 wherein at least a portion of the stent is coated with at least one therapeutic agent.

29. (Original) The stent of claim 28 wherein the at least a portion of the stent is at least a portion of the at least one securement member.

30. (Previously Presented) The stent of claim 28 wherein the at least one therapeutic agent is at least one therapeutic agent selected from the group consisting of: anti-thrombogenic agents; anti-proliferative agents; anti-inflammatory agents; antineoplastic/antiproliferative/anti-miotic agents; anesthetic agents; anti-coagulants; vascular cell growth promoters ; vascular cell growth inhibitors; bifunctional molecules consisting of an antibody and a cytotoxin; cholesterol-lowering agents; vasodilating agents; and agents which interfere with endogenous vascoactive mechanisms, and any combinations thereof.

31. (Previously Presented) The stent of claim 28 wherein the at least one therapeutic agent is at least one therapeutic agent selected from the group consisting of: anti-sense DNA and RNA; DNA coding for anti-sense RNA, tRNA or rRNA to replace defective or deficient endogenous molecules; angiogenic factors including growth factors; cell cycle inhibitors; at least one of the family of bone morphogenic proteins ("BMP's"); dimeric proteins ; molecules capable of inducing an upstream or downstream effect of a BMP ; and any combinations thereof.

32. (Previously Presented) The stent of claim 28 wherein the at least one therapeutic agent is at least one type of cellular material selected from the group consisting of: cells of human origin; cells of non-human origin ; and any combination thereof.

33. (Previously Presented) The stent of claim 28 wherein the at least one therapeutic agent comprises at least one polymer coating, the at least one coating selected from the group consisting of: polycarboxylic acids; cellulosic polymers, including cellulose acetate and cellulose nitrate; gelatin; polyvinylpyrrolidone; cross-linked polyvinylpyrrolidone; polyanhydrides including maleic anhydride polymers; polyamides; polyvinyl alcohols; copolymers of vinyl monomers; polyvinyl ethers; polyvinyl aromatics; polyethylene oxides; glycosaminoglycans; polysaccharides; polyesters including polyethylene terephthalate; polyacrylamides; polyethers; polyether sulfone; polycarbonate; polyalkylenes including polypropylene, polyethylene and high molecular weight polyethylene; halogenated polyalkylenes including polytetrafluoroethylene;

polyurethanes; polyorthoesters; proteins; polypeptides; silicones; siloxane polymers; polylactic acid; polyglycolic acid; polycaprolactone; polyhydroxybutyrate valerate and blends and copolymers thereof; coatings from polymer dispersions; polysaccharides; hyaluronic acid; squalene emulsions; polyacrylic acid, a copolymer of polylactic acid and polycaprolactone; medical-grade biodegradable materials; polycaprolactone co butyl acrylate and other co polymers; Poly-L-lactic acid blends with DL-Lactic Acid; Poly(lactic acid-co-glycolic acid); polycaprolactone co PLA; polycaprolactone co butyl acrylate and other copolymers; Tyrosine-Derived Polycarbonates and arylate; poly amino acid; polyphosphazenes; polyiminocarbonates; polydimethyltrimethylcarbonates; biodegradable CA/PO.sub.4's; cyanoacrylate; 50/50 DLPLG; polydioxanone; polypropylene fumarate; polydepsipeptides; macromolecules; surface erodible material; maleic anhydride copolymers; zinc-calcium phosphate; amorphous polyanhydrides; sugar; carbohydrate; gelatin; biodegradable polymers; and polymers dissolvable in bodily fluids; and any combinations thereof.

34. (Currently Amended) A stent comprising:

a first section;

a second section;

a securement member disposed about the first section and the second section, wherein an inner surface of the securement member is fixedly engaged to the first section and the second section, wherein the securement member comprises a longitudinal seam at least partially separating the first section and the second section from each another; ~~and~~

a weld positioned along the seam; and

at least one separate strengthening member comprising a first portion positioned between the securement member and at least one of the first section and the second section, the strengthening member also comprising a second portion extending beyond an end of the securement member.

35. (Previously Presented) The stent according to claim 34, comprising a plurality of securement members.

36. (Previously Presented) The stent according to claim 34, comprising a plurality of welds.

37. (Previously Presented) The stent of claim 30 wherein the anti-thrombogenic agents are selected from the group consisting of heparin, heparin derivatives, urokinase, and PPack (dextrophenylalanine proline arginine chloromethylketone).

38. (Previously Presented) The stent of claim 30 wherein the anti-proliferative agents are selected from the group consisting of enoxaprin, angiopeptin, monoclonal antibodies capable of blocking smooth muscle cell proliferation, hirudin, and acetylsalicylic acid.

39. (Previously Presented) The stent of claim 30 wherein the anti-inflammatory agents are selected from the group consisting of dexamethasone, prednisolone, corticosterone, budesonide, estrogen, sulfasalazine, and mesalamine.

40. (Previously Presented) The stent of claim 30 wherein the antineoplastic/antiproliferative/anti-miotic agents are selected from the group consisting of paclitaxel, 5-fluorouracil, cisplatin, vinblastine, vincristine, epothilones, endostatin, angiostatin and thymidine kinase inhibitors.

41. (Previously Presented) The stent of claim 30 wherein the anesthetic agents are selected from the group consisting of lidocaine, bupivacaine and ropivacaine.

42. (Previously Presented) The stent of claim 30 wherein the anti-coagulants are selected from the group consisting of D-Phe-Pro-Arg chloromethyl keton, an RGD peptide-containing compound, heparin, antithrombin compounds, platelet receptor antagonists, anti-thrombin antibodies, anti-platelet receptor antibodies, aspirin, prostaglandin inhibitors, platelet inhibitors and tick antiplatelet peptides.

43. (Previously Presented) The stent of claim 30 wherein the vascular cell growth promoters are selected from the group consisting of growth factor inhibitors, growth factor receptor antagonists, transcriptional activators, and translational promoters.

44. (Previously Presented) The stent of claim 30 wherein the vascular cell growth inhibitors are selected from the group consisting of growth factor inhibitors, growth factor receptor antagonists, transcriptional repressors, translational repressors, replication inhibitors, inhibitory

antibodies, antibodies directed against growth factors, and bifunctional molecules consisting of a growth factor and a cytotoxin.

45. (Previously Presented) The stent of claim 31 wherein the growth factors are selected from the group consisting of acidic and basic fibroblast growth factors, vascular endothelial growth factors, epidermal growth factors, transforming growth factors .alpha. and .beta., platelet-derived endothelial growth factors, platelet-derived growth factors, tumor necrosis factors .alpha., hepatocyte growth factors, and insulin like growth factors.

46. (Previously Presented) The stent of claim 31 wherein the cell cycle inhibitors are selected from the group consisting of CD inhibitors, thymidine kinase ("TK") and other agents useful for interfering with cell proliferation.

47. (Previously Presented) The stent of claim 31 wherein the bone morphogenic proteins are selected from the group consisting of BMP-2, BMP-3, BMP-4, BMP-5, BMP-6 (Vgr-1), BMP-7 (OP-1), BMP-8, BMP-9, BMP-10, BMP-11, BMP-12, BMP-13, BMP-14, BMP-15, and BMP-16.

48. (Previously Presented) The stent of claim 31 wherein the molecules capable of inducing an upstream or downstream effect of a BMP are selected from the group consisting of "hedgehog" proteins, and the DNA's encoding "hedgehog" proteins.

49. (Previously Presented) The stent of claim 33 wherein the coatings from polymer dispersions are selected from the group consisting of polyurethane dispersions, fibrin, collagen and derivatives thereof.

50. (Previously Presented) The stent of claim 33 wherein the polysaccharides are selected from the group consisting of celluloses, starches, dextrans, alginates and derivatives.

51. (Previously Presented) The stent of claim 33 wherein the medical-grade biodegradable materials are selected from the group consisting of PGA-TMC, Tyrosine-Derived Polycarbonates and arylates.

52. (Previously Presented) The stent of claim 33 wherein the macromolecules are selected from the group consisting of chitosan and Hydroxylpropylmethylcellulose.